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Letter dated 16 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the answer of the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to a question raised by the Korea Central News Agency on 16 May 2017 with regard to the successful test-fire of the ground-to-ground medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket, Hwasong-12 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated16 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answer of the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to a question raised by the Korea Central News Agency on 16 May 2017 with regard to the successful test-fire of a ground-to-ground medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket

The successful test-fire of Hwasong-12 is of great and special significance in ensuring peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the region, and it is the greatest victory of the Korean people.

As part of the routine work to raise the nuclear capability to the maximum and thus increase the military capability for self-defence, the test-fire was conducted at the highest angle, in consideration of neighbouring countries' security. It was aimed at verifying the tactical and technical specifications of the newly developed ballistic rocket capable of carrying a large-size heavy nuclear warhead.

However, some countries described this legitimate exercise of the right to self-defence as a "violation" and "threat", and the Security Council issued a press statement condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the ballistic rocket launch.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea categorically and totally rejects the press statement, which called into question its bolstering of nuclear deterrence for the purpose of self-defence, pursuant to the vicious United States anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea policy.

Just in one recent one week, the United States conducted two test-fires of intercontinental ballistic missiles, but the Security Council never mentioned them.

The right to self-defence is the first criterion of sovereignty. Therefore, an accusation against it is an undisguised encroachment upon sovereignty and an act of rude interference in internal affairs.

Should the United States dare to make a military provocation against our State, we will readily counter it.

The most perfect weapon systems in the world will never be the eternal, exclusive property of the United States and the day when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea uses corresponding retaliatory means is sure to come.

Then, the United States will come to see for itself whether the ballistic rockets of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea pose an actual threat to it or not.